IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, ~~of driving competition in an auction~~ comprising:

receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of bidders;

using a processor to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset based on a parameter;

assigning <u>at least one</u> ~~first~~ identifier to the bidders in the first subset<u>, wherein the at least one identifier is known to the bidders in the first subset and is neither assigned to nor known to the bidders in the second subset</u>;

~~assigning a second identifier to the bidders in the second subset; and~~

displaying<u>, to each bidder in the first subset of bidders</u> a lowest bid ~~with the~~ <u>and an</u> identifier <u>assigned to the bidder that submitted the lowest bid</u> ~~for each bidder;~~

~~wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising <u>receiving a new lowest bid and</u>[[:]] <u>displaying to each bidder in the first subset of bidders the new lowest bid and an identifier assigned to the bidder that submitted the new lowest bid</u> ~~updating the lowest bids with new lowest bids from the bidders~~.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising[[:]] setting <u>a first set of bid terms for the first subset and setting a second set of bid terms for the second subset, wherein the first set of bid terms and second set of bid terms are not identical</u>~~, in each subset, bid terms~~.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the setting comprises: establishing at least one of a

reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the establishing comprises: providing time dependent variables including at least one of an opening time, a closing time, time extensions, and disclosures based on time.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising: providing a parameter, the parameter being~~ wherein the parameter comprises at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the parameter comprises regions, the competition comprises global and regional competition, and assigning ~~a first~~ at least one identifier comprises: allotting a range of numbers to each region; and giving a number to each bidder in the region.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the displaying comprises: illustrating the lowest bids to allow a comparison regionally and globally.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises: accepting bids for a plurality of lots.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A system, ~~of bidding to drive competition in an auction~~ comprising:
    a database configured to ~~for receiving and storing~~ receive and store bid information from bidders; and
    a processor configured to:
        use a parameter to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset;
        assign at least one ~~first~~ identifier to the bidders in the first subset, wherein the at least one identifier is known to the bidders in the first subset and is neither assigned to nor known to the bidders in the second subset;

assign a second identifier to the bidders in the second subset; and

cause a display of, for each bidder in the first subset of bidders a lowest bid ~~with~~ ~~the~~ and an identifier assigned to the bidder that submitted the lowest bid ~~for each bidder~~; ~~wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the~~ ~~second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset~~.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the parameter comprises at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second subsets comprise geographical areas for the regions, methods of payment for the payment terms, methods of delivery for the delivery terms, times for the contract length, capacities for the contract volume, types of material for the material, and at least one of approval and certification for the qualification status.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the ~~first~~ at least one identifier comprises a number selected from a range of numbers assigned to the subset.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the database stores bid terms for each subset.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the bid terms comprise at least one of a reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the processor is further configured to cause a display of, for each bidder in the first subset of bidders a new ~~update the~~ lowest bid[[s]] and an identifier assigned to the bidder that submitted the [[with]] new lowest bid[[s]].

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the ~~first~~ at least one identifier indicates a number of bidders in [[each]] the first subset.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the ~~first~~ at least one identifier conceals

a number of bidders in the first subset.

22. (Currently amended) A computer program product ~~for bidding to drive competition in an auction, the computer program product being~~ embodied in a tangible computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a plurality of bids from a plurality of bidders;

using a parameter to distinguish the bidders into at least a first subset and a second subset; [[and]]

<u>assigning at least one identifier to the bidders in the first subset, wherein the at least one identifier is known to the bidders in the first subset and is neither assigned to nor known to the bidders in the second subset; and</u>

displaying<u>, to each bidder in the first subset of bidders</u> a lowest bid ~~with the~~ <u>and an</u> identifier <u>assigned to the bidder that submitted the lowest bid</u> ~~for each bidder~~

~~wherein the first identifier is unknown to bidders in the second subset and wherein the second identifier is unknown to bidders in the first subset.~~

23. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the parameter comprises at least one of regions, payment terms, delivery terms, contract length, contract volume, material, and qualification status.

24. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the first and second subsets comprise geographical areas for the regions, methods of payment for the payment terms, methods of delivery for the delivery terms, times for the contract length, capacities for the contract volume, types of material for the material, and at least one of approval and certification for the qualification status.

25. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the ~~first~~ <u>at least one</u> identifier comprises a number selected from a range of numbers assigned to the first subset.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising setting, in each subset, bid terms.

27. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the bid terms comprise at least one of a reserve price, a historic price, a target price, time dependent variables, and bid strategies.

28. (Currently amended) A computer program product of claim 22, further comprising <u>receiving a new lowest bid and displaying to each bidder in the first subset of bidders the new lowest bid and an identifier assigned to the bidder that submitted the new lowest bid</u> ~~updating the lowest bids with new lowest bids~~.

29. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the <u>at least one identifier</u> ~~first and second~~ identifier[[s]] indicate<u>s</u> a number of bidders in <u>the first</u> ~~each respective~~ subset.

30. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the ~~first~~ <u>at least one</u> identifier conceals a number of bidders in the first subset.

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein assigning includes assigning a plurality of identifiers to the bidders in the first subset.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein each of the identifiers included in the plurality of identifiers have a common characteristic.